

NORTH PACIFIC RIGHT WHALE SURVEY 2002: Weekly Report 7/25/02
LEG 2 - RIGHT WHALE EFFORTS
aka the Search for North Indigenous Pacific Eubalaena

Okay, so the new acronym is not all that great, but this does seem to be a snipe hunt at times. We lost most of the week due to weather, with a low pressure system that became ensconced in the eastern Bering. On either side of the lost time was mostly frustration, with right whales occasionally being heard but never found. When the weather came up, we hid at Akutan Island, anchored there for several days. We had one opportunity to go ashore for a few hours and stretch our legs on the tundra or comb the beach. Very nice. Another highlight was the divers going down off the old whaling station, recovering a half dozen bones, including one sperm whale tooth.

When we finally left Akutan for the survey area, we had the best sighting of the leg so far. Right near Unimak Pass, there was a mass slaughter of krill going on, involving tens of thousands of short-tailed shearwaters and dozens of humpback whales. Truly a sight. We got a fair number of fluke photos and some great looks at feeding humpbacks. Now we're back in the box, continuing the search.

Date	Begin/End time position	Transect miles	Avg. Beauf
071802	1737 N56:54.37 W163:48.90 2255 N56:57.90 W165:21.07	53.4nmi	2.0
071902	1531 N57:01.73 W165:33.83 2241 N56:58.02 W163:37.81	63.5nmi	2.8
072002	0707 N56:59.22 W164:38.66 1426 N56:41.00 W164:30.04	75.1nmi	3.8
072402	1107 N54:16.79 W165:43.81 2200 N56:19.45 W164:49.68	124.3nmi	4.2

Code	Species	Tot#	Biopsy	Photo
37	killer whale	2	2	y
44	Dall's porpoise	4		
70	unidentified rorqual	1		
71	minke whale	1		
74	fin whale	10		
76	humpback whale	11		y
77	unidentified delphinoid	1		
79	unidentified large whale	1		
	OTHER	1		
	TOTAL	32		